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The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Identical letters dated 28 December 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to inform you of details regarding today's fatal terrorist attack, carried out by Palestinian terrorists in the West Bank, which resulted in the murder of two Israeli citizens.

Earlier today, Palestinian terrorists shot at three Israelis, two men and one woman, who were hiking in the southern Hebron Hills in the West Bank. The terrorists opened fire on the hikers in a drive-by shooting, killing the two men. The woman, who managed to hide during the attack, was later treated for shock. The Islamic Jihad terrorist organization has claimed responsibility.

This terrorist attack is a harrowing reminder of the devastating impact of Palestinian terrorism on the daily lives of Israeli civilians. While Israel remains committed to taking all steps to advance the peace process — as demonstrated by our continuous meetings with the Palestinian Authority in an effort to build on the momentum of Annapolis and steward the way forward to serious negotiations — the Palestinian Authority has yet to demonstrate its will to combat terrorism and fulfil its obligations under the various agreements, including the road map. Terrorism remains the greatest obstacle to peace and security in our region, and the Palestinian leadership must end the violence and dismantle the terrorist infrastructure.

Furthermore, there are clear indications that Islamic Jihad, the perpetrators of today's attack, as well as other terrorist organizations in our region, are financed and given shelter by other Member States, in direct contravention of international law, in particular Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and other relevant Council resolutions. State sponsorship of terrorism seriously undermines the stability and security of our region. Israel demands that all States refrain from supporting and assisting terrorist organizations. The international community must reaffirm in no

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uncertain terms its absolute intolerance for terrorism and the aiding of terrorist organizations.

I should be grateful if you would have the contents of the present letter circulated as a document of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 17, "Situation in the Middle East", 18, "Question of Palestine", and 108, "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dan **Gillerman**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative